

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Cecil for acknowledging the claim for priority under 35 USC § 119 and receipt of a copy of the certified copy of the priority application from the International Bureau in the corresponding International application. Further, the Examiner is kindly thanked for approving the drawings originally filed with this application.

The specification is amended in several places to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter is introduced.

The subject matter of this application pertains to a blood treating set and a method of producing a blood treating set. The blood treating set includes a blood collecting device and a blood treating device. The blood collecting device includes a first bag for storing collected blood and a first tube for discharging the blood from the first bag. The blood treating device includes a second bag for storing blood or a blood component, and a second tube for leading the blood or blood component into the second bag. The first tube and the second tube are aseptically connected to each other, with the blood or blood component being transferred by use of the first tube and the second tube connected to each other. The first tube and the second tube are provided with indications each identifying the connection position for the tubes. As now set forth in Claim 1, the blood treating set also includes a filter for removing a predetermined component, with the filter being provided at an intermediate position on the second tube.

By virtue of the indications provided on the first and second tubes, it is possible to connect the first and second tubes such that the length of the tubes after

connection is substantially constant. As discussed in the present application, one beneficial result associated with this structure is that the filter is able to exhibit a generally uniform and sufficient filtering performance, and a high filtration efficiency can be stably produced. That is, the indications on the first and second tubes help ensure that the length of the tubes after connection is substantially constant and so the beneficial filtering performance of the filter can be realized. In addition, when conducting operations such as separating and recovering blood components through use of the blood treating set, or when performing separation, recovery or the like of cells using the cell treating set here, the tube connecting operation can be conducted relatively easily, quick and accurately, as can the overall operations of the blood treating and cell treating sets.

The Official Action sets forth two anticipatory rejections of claims in this application, one based on the disclosure in German Application Publication No. 100 19 985 to Koster and Japanese Application Publication No. 2001-276212. However, neither of these references discloses the construction recited in independent Claim 1, and independent Claim 15, including the first and second bags, first and second tubes, the filter, and the aseptic connection of the first and second tubes, wherein the tubes are provided with indications identifying the connection position for the tubes so that the length of the tubes after connection is substantially constant and well defined. It is thus respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 15 are allowable.

Claim 8 and Claim 18 recite a method of producing a blood treating set. Claim 8 recites that the first tube and the second tube are connected to each other with a reduced diameter portion of each tube mounted in the tube holding part of the tube connecting device. A method of producing a blood treating that involves this

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aspect of the claimed method, together with the other claimed aspects of the method, is not disclosed in the cited references.

The method recited in independent Claim 18 involves aseptically connecting the first and second tubes to each other, wherein the second tube is provided with a filter, and wherein the first and second tubes are provided with indications indicating the connection position for the tubes. Consistent with the discussion above, this is also not disclosed in the cited references.

Withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Early and favorable action concerning this application is respectfully requested.


Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: June 3, 2009

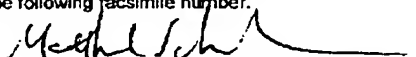
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted by facsimile transmission to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, to the following facsimile number.

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